

**George Washington to Aaron Willard and Moses Child,
November 24, 1775, Orders, The Writings of George
Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

To AARON WILLARD

November 24, 1775.

The Honble Continental Congress having lately passed a Resolve, contained in the following Words, vizt.: “That two Persons be sent at the Expence of these Colonies to Nova Scotia to inquire into the State of that Colony the Disposition of the Inhabitants towards the American Cause, and the Condition of the Fortifications, Dock-Yards, the Quantity of Artillery and warlike Stores and the number of Soldiers, Sailors, and Ships of War there and transmit the earliest Intelligence to General Washington.” I do hereby constitute and appoint you the said Aaron Willard Esqr. to be one of the Persons to undertake this Business, and as the Season is late, and this a Work of great Importance, I entreat and request that you will use the utmost Dispatch, Attention and Fidelity in the Execution of it. The necessity of acting with a proper Degree of Caution and Secrecy, is too apparent to need Recommendation. You will keep an Account of your Expences, and upon your Return will be rewarded in a suitable Manner, for the Fatigue of your Journey and the Services you render your Country, by conducting and discharging this Business with Expedition and Fidelity¹ Given under my Hand, etc.

¹he same instructions were sent to Moses Child, who went with Willard. ¹hey traveled overland to Nova Scotia, where they found two proclamations had been issued by the governor of that Province against spies. Willard and Child returned to Cambridge, Mass., and reported to Washington Feb. 14, 1776. ¹heir report that the inhabitants of Nova Scotia were in favor of and would help America had no foundation in fact. It is in the Washington Papers.

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Nova Scotia and Halifax continued to be an object of attention for American spies throughout the war, but nothing was ever accomplished.